

From the Land

SPRING/1983

The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter



Silas Hall Pond in Winchester, Connecticut, is a known beaver habitat. This 108-acre Nature Conservancy preserve was donated by Bethuel Webster.

Photo by George Bellerose.

The Nature Conservancy
Connecticut Chapter
55 High Street
PO Box MMM
Wesleyan Station
Middletown, Connecticut 06457
Tel. (203) 344-0716

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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AT WORK

	Nationally	In Connecticut
Total projects	3,115	314
Total acres saved	2,005,626	13,523
Members	156,577	5,597
Corporate Associates	400	24



National Office: 1800 North Kent St., Arlington, Virginia 22209

PROSPECT MOUNTAIN SAVED BY JOINT EFFORT

An important land saving effort took place recently in northwestern Connecticut with the preservation of Prospect Mountain in Litchfield. The property, more than 400 acres of undeveloped land, was given to the Conservancy by Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Gagarin and their children. It will remain as a natural area for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

A fine example of a middle-aged transition hardwoods-hemlock-white pine forest, the area is also significant for its size, sheer beauty and magnificent vistas. The Mattatuck Trail, part of the Connecticut Blue Trail System, crosses the preserve. In addition, Prospect Mountain provides excellent habitat for wildlife and offers good birding.

The preservation of Prospect Mountain was a cooperative effort of the Chapter, the Land Trust Service Bureau, and the Litchfield Conservation Trust. The Chapter worked with the donors to insure their protection wishes for the land. The Service Bureau facilitated the transfer of ownership to the Litchfield Conservation Trust, which will now serve as its permanent steward. In taking title to Prospect Mountain, the trust, one of 82 in the state,

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Published for the members of
the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

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Patricia A. Kendzior, *Secretary*

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enriches Connecticut's conservation holdings and augments the Conservancy's efforts. The land trust will undertake a complete natural inventory and write a comprehensive management plan.

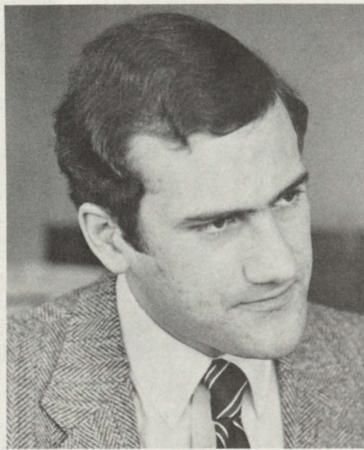
In its 30-year history, the Conservancy has been instrumental in protecting over 13,500 acres of natural lands in the state. In the last year, the Chapter preserved roughly 800 acres in Connecticut (see Annual Report, enclosed). This estimable annual record, probably unmatched by any private organization in the state, is made possible because of the generosity of members and land donors alike. In Prospect Mountain, the people of Connecticut have received a gift as permanent as anything can be in this uncertain world. We on the staff pledge to continue to multiply the effects of our members' charitable dollars. And we do hope you are gratified that your contributions continue to yield such enormous and long lasting benefits.

Suzi Wilkins

Suzanne C. Wilkins
Director
Land Trust Service Bureau

DAVID WARREN NAMED CRITICAL AREAS DIRECTOR

Executive Director Ken Olson has announced the appointment of David P. Warren of Jackson, New Hampshire, as Director of the Chapter's Critical Areas Program. Warren, 29, will begin on May 16. He is a Wesleyan alumnus and was a hutman for the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC). The AMC later appointed him assistant manager and then manager of the Hut System, the famed chain of mountain hostleries in the White Mountains.



David P. Warren

"Dave managed a \$1.4 million budget, directed a staff of 50 seasonal and 10 year-round people, and handled most of AMC's search and rescue effort in the

White Mountains," said Olson. "He also served on citizen advisory committees for the U.S. Forest Service, earning a reputation as a good mediator among competing factions and as a sharp analyst of complicated issues. Both talents are necessary for his new job."

As Director of the Critical Areas Program and Associate Director of the Connecticut Chapter, Warren will help plan and execute a major campaign to protect 25 important natural areas across the state and will help negotiate acquisitions. Said Chairman Alexander Gardner, "Dave Warren will be a great addition to our executive staff and will help us meet the urgent challenges of land protection in Connecticut. The other Trustees and I look forward to working with him."

Asked about his new responsibilities, Warren said, "The Connecticut Critical Areas Program is an ambitious and timely undertaking for the Chapter, vital to the future of Connecticut. I'm excited about the program and look forward to meeting and working closely with many of you in the years to come."

Also joining the staff, as secretary, is Mrs. Patricia A. Kendzior of Portland, Connecticut. Pat brings to the position 15 years of broad professional experience, primarily in the medical field. Her most recent job was as secretary to the Chairman of the Emergency Department, Middlesex Hospital, Middletown. A graduate of Mercy High School, Pat is also an amateur ornithologist.



Patricia A. Kendzior

APPRECIATED SECURITIES

Do you own stocks, bonds, or other securities? And has the value of your holdings gone up recently? It's happening to many people. A recent item in *The Wall Street Journal* states that Americans' net worth has increased by some \$500 billion in recent months because of strong gains in the securities markets.

The tax laws give you a great incentive to make gifts of such appreciated securities, as well as real estate and personal property. If you have held securities or property for more than a year and make a gift to The Nature Conservancy, you can take as a deduction against your current income the full present market value of the donated property. You avoid capital gains tax on the appreciated value. And you may be able to reduce significantly your current income tax liability.

This represents a real opportunity for those who wish to help the Conservancy. The Connecticut Chapter has now embarked on the largest private land-saving effort in Connecticut's history, and we are looking for the large once-in-a-lifetime sort of contribution many people would like to make toward the preservation of natural areas. Could this be the time for you?

Because of the favorable tax law, your "windfall" could be transformed into the permanent protection of an endangered species, or a choice natural area. What a legacy for future generations!

When you give appreciated securities or real property, you don't have to worry about how to come up with the cash. The Conservancy handles the selling and the details. Our staff can work with your lawyer or accountant to devise the best plan for you. If interested, please call Ken Olson at the Connecticut Chapter office.

Alexander S. Gardner
Chairman

SCOVILL SIGNS ON

Chairman Alexander Gardner recently announced that Scovill, Inc., of Waterbury has become a Corporate Associate. Makers of Hamilton Beach mixers and other products, Scovill is a highly successful corporation. Gardner stated, "The Conservancy is fortunate to have earned Scovill's support. We look forward to a long and fruitful working partnership with the company, which joins two dozen other Connecticut based corporations that like how we work." A firm becomes a Corporate Associate by contributing at least \$1,000 annually.

Correction: In the list of new 1982 Acorns published in the Winter 1983 issue of *From the Land* we regretfully omitted the names of Mr. and Mrs. R. Tek Nickerson. Our gratitude is extended to both of them.

WE'RE MOVING . . . BUT NOT TOO FAR

The increase in activity over the last year and the addition of two staff necessitated a search for new headquarters. Effective May 2, 1983, we are relocating the Connecticut Chapter office from the *Science Tower* in Middletown, to *55 High Street* in Middletown. The new quarters are 1/4 mile from the former location.

Our mailing address and telephone remain unchanged: The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter, P.O. Box MMM, Wesleyan Station, Middletown, CT 06457 (203/344-0716).

MEADOW WOODS WILDFLOWER WALK

Join us in Essex on Sunday, June 12, for an afternoon hike beginning at 1:30 p.m. The walk will be led by Lauren Brown, botanist and author of *Grasses and Weeds in Winter*. The trip is limited to 24. Please drop us a postcard with your name, address and telephone number, and we will let you know if there's room and, if so, we'll send you a map.

OAK LEAF AWARD RECIPIENTS

Oak Leaf Awards, symbolized by a green and gold lapel pin, are given by the national Board of Governors to individuals whose efforts have directly and significantly benefited the Conservancy's programs locally, regionally, or nationally.

Below are listed all Connecticut recipients of this distinguished award, initiated in 1963:

Mr. Richard M. Bowers (1963)	Mr. Charles Clark (1968)
Mrs. Allan F. Kitchel (1963)	Mr. G. William DeSousa (1970)
Mr. Erard A. Matthiessen (1963)	Mr. Alexander Adams (1971)
Dr. William A. Niering (1963)	Miss L. Georgia Hundley (1972-73)
Mrs. John M. Hamilton (1964)	Mr. Thomas A. Gaines (1974)
Mrs. Gloria Anable (1965)	Mr. Russell L. Brenneman (1975)
Miss Katharine Ordway (1965)	Dr. Richard H. Goodwin (1980)
Mrs. Agnew Talcott (1966)	Mr. Peter B. Cooper (1981)

PRESERVE GUIDE ORDER BLANK

Please send me _____ copies of *Country Walks in Connecticut: A Guide to The Nature Conservancy Preserves*.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____
Non-Members—\$8.47 per book
Members—\$7.40 per book
Prices include 7 1/2% Conn. sales tax and \$1.00 postage/handling.

Name _____

Address _____

Please send order form and check to The Nature Conservancy, CT Chapter, P.O. Box MMM, Wesleyan Station, Middletown, CT 06457.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

23RD ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

10:30 a.m., Saturday, June 25th

at

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
New Haven, Connecticut

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, State Rare and Endangered Species Biologist, will be the featured speaker at the Connecticut Chapter's 23rd annual meeting. Mr. Mehrhoff's talk on "Rare Flora of Connecticut" will be accompanied by selections from his superb slide collection. Also on the program is Dennis Wolkoff, Vice President and Director of the Eastern Regional Office of The Nature Conservancy.

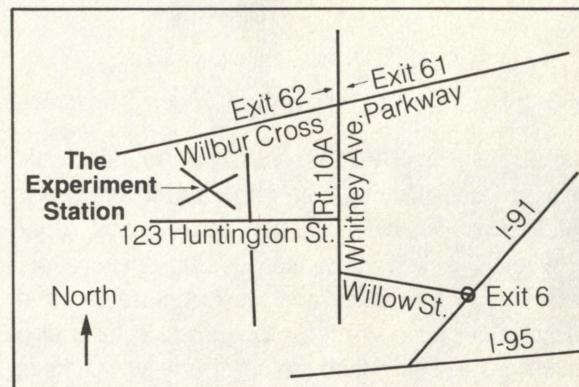
Please pack a picnic lunch. Following our morning business meeting and program we will, weather permitting, picnic on the pleasant grounds of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. We plan then to travel caravan-style ten minutes north for an afternoon hike at Sleeping Giant State Park, which boasts over 1,000 acres and more than 25 miles of well-maintained trails. Led by Dag Pfeiffer, President of the Sleeping Giant Park Association, we will find exciting views from rocky promontories, remote quiet woods and pine groves, mountain streams and tumbling waterfalls. The walk on the Giant will take place rain or shine, so please dress appropriately. The terrain is in some places rocky and steep, so sturdy shoes or boots are advised.

R.S.V.P. BY WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15: 344-0716

Space is limited to 200. Reservations will be accepted in order received.

AGENDA

- 10:30 Assemble at Agricultural Experiment Station
- 10:45 Welcoming Remarks and Business Meeting, including Election of Officers and Trustees
- 11:15 Dennis Wolkoff, Vice President and Director of the Eastern Regional Office of The Nature Conservancy
- 11:45 Leslie J. Mehrhoff, State Rare and Endangered Species Biologist: "Rare Flora of Connecticut"
- 12:15 Picnic Lunch
- 1:30- Hike at Sleeping Giant State Park
- 3:30



DIRECTIONS: Take Exit 6 from I-91. At the end of the ramp, turn right onto Willow St. Follow Willow St. to the end and turn right onto Whitney Ave. Huntington St. is the third left. The Experiment Station is on the right, in the middle of the second block beyond Edgehill Rd.

The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter

1982 Annual Report

FROM THE CHAIRMAN . . .

1982 was a record year for our Chapter. In some of the most significant accomplishments, we:

—Acquired Chapman's Pond (300 acres), East Haddam, and completed a \$700,000 fundraiser—one of the most important projects in our history. We continue to seek gifts of land there to round out the Cynthia B. Carlson Nature Preserve.

—Acquired, through bargain sale, Onion Mountain (100 acres), Canton, home to state-listed rare flora.

—Acquired first half-interest in Prospect Mountain (400 acres), Litchfield, leading to acquisition of second half-interest early in 1983. A spectacular ridge top, long the target of Connecticut conservationists, Prospect Mountain has been transferred to the Litchfield Conservation Trust, via TNC's Land Trust Service Bureau (LTSB).

—Completed other important acquisitions, including additions to existing preserves.

—Made nine gifts of locally significant land (68 acres) to qualified non-profit land-holding organizations, via LTSB.

—Helped, through LTSB, form land trusts in Bloomfield, Norfolk, Windsor, and New Haven.

—Published *Connecticut Land Trust Handbook*, by Suzanne Wilkins and Roger Koontz.

—Published *Country Walks in Connecticut: A Guide to The Nature Conservancy Preserves*, by Susan D. Cooley.

—Continued volunteer stewardship of more than 50 preserves.

—Increased membership from 5,000 to 5,500.

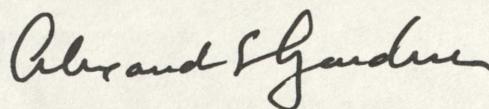
—Launched the largest land saving effort ever undertaken in Connecticut, the beginning of a three-year project.

—Worked with Connecticut's scientists to identify the state's rare and endangered species and the most biologically important natural areas.

In addition, we ended the year on a sound financial footing, as the accompanying figures demonstrate.

In October, the Conservancy's national Board of Governors presented its Oak Leaf award to our recent chairman, Peter Cooper, in recognition of his and the Chapter's success. Peter joins me in extending to Chapter staff, fellow trustees, volunteers, and our wonderful members, warmest thanks for the achievements of the past year.

We enter 1983 with the most ambitious agenda ever for identification, protection, and stewardship of critical natural areas in Connecticut. Everyone please stay tuned; it should be an exciting time!



Alexander S. Gardner
Chairman



FINANCIAL REPORT

The following information is abstracted from our financial statement as of December 31, 1982:

ASSETS

Cash in Banks:

Demand Account	\$ 39,160
Savings Certificates	134,447
Funds at National Office	62,956
FUND BALANCE	\$236,563

Demand Account is the locally held portion of the Chapter's operating capital. Savings Certificates include \$48,581 in local preserve accounts, \$31,080 in a restricted stewardship account, and \$54,786 in unrestricted funds. Funds held at the National Office include \$39,288 in operating capital and \$23,668 in an investment fund.

Excluded from the above financial statements are the funds held at the national office for Connecticut area land preserves and projects, as these accounts are audited separately by the national office.

Given these exclusions, the financial information above presents fairly the assets and fund balance arising from cash transactions of The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter as of December 31, 1982, and the revenues collected and expenditures paid during the year then ended. The report of our auditors, Schulz and Vecchitto, is available for your inspection at our offices.



PROTECTION

1982 marked one of our most successful years—approximately 800 acres protected. Most noteworthy was the purchase of Chapman's Pond in East Haddam, a biological bonanza and place of high natural amenity. The cost for purchase and stewardship was \$700,000, raised in a record seven months. The Conservancy, the Connecticut River Gateway Commission, the East Haddam Land Trust, the Soil Conservation Service, the Eastern Connecticut RC & D, and the Middlesex Soil and Water Conservation District cooperated in the project, whose outcome was the dedication, on June 13, of the 300-acre Cynthia B. Carlson Nature Preserve.

The Chapman's effort attracted considerable public attention. Stories appeared in local and national media, including the *New York Times*. A bipartisan alliance of Connecticut politicians spoke for Chapman's. We would like to thank again Governor William O'Neill, Senators Lowell Weicker and Christopher Dodd, and Representatives Stewart McKinney and Sam Gejdenson.

Another significant acquisition was Onion Mountain in Canton, a 100-acre basaltic ridge, acquired at 6% of its fair market value, thanks to its former owner Marvin H. Stocking.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Gagarin and their children gave in two sequential gifts, more than 400 acres at Prospect Mountain in Litchfield. By arrangement, ownership was transferred to the Litchfield Conservation Trust, through our Land Trust Service Bureau.

In October, we celebrated another gift of land, the final one-thirteenth interest in TNC's Turtle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary (94 acres) in Essex. The donors are Governor and Mrs. Chester Bowles.

Janet K. Howell generously donated two acres in Wilton, her second gift of land to the Chapter. Through the Land Trust Service Bureau, the property was transferred to the Wilton Land Trust.



For his support in securing federal funding for the acquisition of Chapman's Pond as a Conservancy wildlife refuge, U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd (second from right) accepts Certificate of Special Recognition from (left to right) W. Kent Olson, Chapter Executive Director; Alexander S. Gardner, Chapter Chairman; and Nat Williams, TNC's Legislative Representative.

IDENTIFICATION

The Chapter cooperated with the rare and endangered species biologist of the Department of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources Center, in locating and mapping Connecticut's vanishing flora and fauna. The joint venture yielded information on more than 1,000 possible occurrences, providing the foundation for future researches. The next step is to establish by mid-1983 a computerized data base to give a comprehensive picture of natural diversity in Connecticut.

Last summer we sent into the field researchers whose findings improved our priority list for acquisition. Through the joint program with DEP's Natural Resources Center, and the work of our field interns and volunteer scientists, we were able to identify in two years some twenty-five critical areas as targets for protection.

LAND TRUST SERVICE BUREAU

In 1982, the Land Trust Service Bureau, in a joint project with the Conservation Law Foundation, printed and distributed over 500 copies of *The Connecticut Land Trust Handbook*, held five regional meetings for local land trusts throughout the state, and helped form four new land trusts. Service Bureau Director Suzi Wilkins continued to process trust applications for insurance available through the Conservancy.

The Service Bureau facilitated land saving efforts across the state in 1982 by helping with preservation projects totalling over 4,000 acres. It assisted the Connecticut Chapter with nine transfers totalling 68 acres to qualified conservation organizations.

STEWARDSHIP

Through years of research we now know better than ever before what special plants and animals occur on our preserves. We have concentrated management efforts on these lands and have targeted further research here.

The Student Internship Program ran for its eighth year and delved beyond Conservancy preserve boundaries. We examined Connecticut's sand plains and calcareous wetlands—two threatened natural community types. And we pursued the documentation of our 40 easements.

In December, the Chapter and the Appalachian Mountain Club co-published *Country Walks in Connecticut: A Guide to The Nature Conservancy Preserves*. It provides directions to and descriptions of the Conservancy's holdings in Connecticut so that they may be more fully enjoyed and respected.